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Part III

# Department of the Interior

## Bureau of Land Management

## Oil and Gas Leasing; Increase in Filing Fees Accompanying Noncompetitive Oil and Gas Lease Applications

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

**43 CFR Parts 3100 and 3110**

**[Circular No. 2491]**

## Oil and Gas Leasing; Increase in Filing Fees Accompanying Noncompetitive Oil and Gas Lease Applications

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Interim final rulemaking.

**SUMMARY:** This interim final rulemaking will increase the filing fee that accompanies noncompetitive oil and gas lease applications from the current $10 to $25 as required by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act. The change will be applicable to all lease applications filed on or after October 1, 1981.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 1981.

**ADDRESS:** Any comments, suggestions or inquiries should be sent to: Director (650), Bureau of Land Management, 1800 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Charles Weller, (202) 343-7753.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act provides in part that "* * *, effective October 1, 1981, all applications for noncompetitive oil and gas leases shall be accompanied by a filing fee of not less than $25 for each such application: * * *". Consistent with that Congressional mandate, the Department of the Interior is amending the Oil and Gas Leasing regulations to increase the filing fee for noncompetitive oil and gas lease applications from $10 to $25. In the absence of this interim final rulemaking, the existing regulations would be invalid because they would be inconsistent with the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act and, therefore, noncompetitive oil and gas lease applications could be accepted.

This change in filing fees will apply to all noncompetitive oil and gas lease applications filed on or after October 1, 1981, the effective date of this rulemaking. Any applications received in the proper Bureau of Land Management office after the effective date and not accompanied by a $25 filing fee will be considered unacceptable and will be returned to the applicant, along with the filing fee.

Since the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act requires that the filing fee increase be made effective as of October 1, 1981, there is insufficient time to publish the change in the regulations as a proposed rulemaking. This rulemaking is therefore published as an interim final rulemaking giving the public an opportunity to comment. Comments received on this interim final rulemaking will be reviewed and incorporated with comments on any subsequent revision of 43 CFR Part 3100 which covers filing fees and changes thereto. In addition, the Department of the Interior has determined that good cause exists for publishing this rulemaking in the **Federal Register** less than 30 days prior to its effective date.

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, in addition to requiring that the filing fee for noncompetitive oil and gas lease applications be set at $25, gives the Secretary of the Interior authority to increase the filing fee above that figure. The public is requested to give its views on the question of whether the filing fee should be increased above $25. While the Department of the Interior has no discretion concerning the increase of the filing fee to $25, it will receive and review any and all comments, suggestions or inquiries concerning this final rulemaking.

The Bureau of Land Management State offices will post notices explaining this change. They will also take whatever action is deemed necessary to ensure the broadest possible coverage in publicizing the increase in the filing fee.

The principal author of this final rulemaking is Rob Cervantes, Division of Onshore Energy Resources, Bureau of Land Management.

It is hereby determined that the publication of this document is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and that no detailed statement pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)) is required.

The Department of the Interior has determined that this document is not a major rule under Executive Order 12291 and will not have a significant economic effect on a substantial number of small entities under the Regulatory Reform Act (Pub. L. 96-354).

Under the authority of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, Parts 3100 and 3110, Group 3100, Subchapter C, Chapter II of Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations are amended as follows.

**Garrey E. Carruthers,**

*Assistant Secretary of the Interior.*

August 31, 1981.

## PART 3100—OIL AND GAS LEASING

**§ 3103.1-3 [Amended]**

1. Section 3103.1-3 is amended by deleting the figure "$10" where it appears and replacing it with the figure "$25".

**§ 3103.2-1 [Amended]**

2. Section 3103.2-1(a) is amended by deleting the figure "$10" where it appears and replacing it with the figure "$25".

## PART 3110—NONCOMPETITIVE LEASES

**§ 3111.1-3 [Amended]**

3. Section 3111.1-3(a) is amended by deleting the figure "$10" where it appears and replacing it with the figure "$25".

**§ 3112.2-2 [Amended]**

1. Section 3112.2-2(a) is amended by deleting the figure "$10" where it appears and replacing it with the figure "$25".

[FR Doc. 81-26624 Filed 9-14-81; 8:45 am]

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